

Catherine Sease

Conservation and Heritage Management Award

In 1997, the president of the Archaeological Institute of American (AIA) established an annual Conservation Award. This award is made in recognition of an individual's or institution's achievement in any of four areas: archeological conservation, e.g., the conservation treatment of an artifact, monument, or site; archeological conservation science, e.g., making an advance in the treatment methodology or analysis of the deterioration of archeological materials; archeological heritage management, e.g., the overall management of a site or group of sites including their preservation and interpretation to the public; and education and/or public awareness of archeological conservation through teaching, lecturing, an exhibition, or a publication. The award is open to international individuals or organizations, public or private, that merit recognition for their contributions to the preservation of our archeological heritage.

The 1998 Conservation Award was presented to the Department of Conservation and Materials Science at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, in recognition of its 60 years of training archeological conservators. Not only did the Institute train many generations of archeological conservators, who have practiced all over the world, it also was largely responsible for defining the discipline of archeological conservation and determining its direction.

Professor Lawrence J. Majewski was the 1999 recipient. Professor Majewski joined the faculty of the Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University in 1960, becoming chairman six years later. Here he taught many generations of archeological conservators for 39 years. In addition to his teaching, Majewski was also active in a wide variety of projects to preserve our archeological heritage. In his role as chief conservator of the Sardis excavations for more than 25 years, he trained many conservators in archeological field techniques.

The Museum of London was the 2000 recipient in recognition of the museum's long-standing strong and consistent commitment to archeological conservation. The museum has promoted conservation as a vital function of all its activities, both in the field on excavations and in the museum in its displays and educational programs. The museum has taken a leadership role in presenting the various aspects of archeological conservation to the public, thereby raising public awareness of the excitement, importance, and challenge of preserving our cultural heritage.

The Conservation Award of the AIA is unusual in singling out individuals and institutions for their outstanding achievements in the preservation of our cultural heritage. As such, it is becoming a prestigious award within the archeological community. For information about the nominating procedure for future awards, contact Catherine Sease (Chair of the Conservation and Heritage Management Committee of the AIA) at the Peabody Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 208118, New Haven, Connecticut 06480.

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